

LIVING WITH
**MOUNTAIN
LIONS**



Preventing Mountain Lion Conflicts

- Don't feed wildlife, including deer, raccoons or other small animals. All are lion prey species and may attract mountain lions.
- Feed pets indoors if possible. Pet food left outdoors may attract mountain lions or lion prey, such as racoons.
- Manage garbage to avoid attracting lion prey. Don't leave garbage out at night, use cans with tight fitting lids.
- Avoid landscaping that attracts deer and provides hiding places for lions.
- Close off spaces beneath decks, porches, or sheds that can be used by mountain lions and lion prey species.
- Keep outdoor animals in a secure pen that includes a wire roof. Some dog breeds may help deter a mountain lion.
- Keep small pets indoors, especially from dawn to dusk.
- Supervise children when they are outdoors.





Photo by Mike Demick

Mountain Lion Facts

- Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) have large home ranges, up to 50-350 square miles. A male's range will overlap multiple females.
- Lions are secretive, using canyons, rock outcrops, cliffs, boulders, and dense vegetation for hiding and hunting.
- Most lion activity and hunting occurs at night, but lions are active from dusk through the early morning hours.
- Prey includes deer, elk, moose, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep, with deer being the most common prey in much of Idaho.
- Lions will also prey on raccoons and other small mammals, and occasionally domestic pets and livestock.
- Prey items are often dragged away and covered with vegetation or dirt (cached), to be consumed at a later time.
- Breeding occurs year-round, but most commonly in winter and early spring. One to 4 kittens are born about 3 months following breeding. The young stay with their mother for a year or more.

Mountain Lion Sign

- Mountain lion tracks appear round, are approximately 3 to 4 inches in diameter, and the claw marks usually are not visible.
- Droppings are 4 to 6 inches in length and 1 to 1 ½ inches in diameter, cylindrical, and blunt on the ends. Droppings often have hair and bone fragments visible. They are often covered with dirt.
- Cached prey items are a sign that a lion has been in the area and may return again to feed on the cached food.
- Lions often leave vertical claw marks on trees, stumps, or fence posts, 4 to 8 feet above the ground.
- Lions make a variety of calls or vocalizations. They include: hiss, purr, mew, growl, yowl, chirp and cry.



Photo by Brett Panting



Aprox. size of adult moutain lion fore print.
Length: 3-4.3 in, Width: 3.3-4.8 in

If You Encounter a Mountain Lion

- DO NOT RUN
- If you are with children, pick them up without bending over.
- Do not turn your back on the lion, crouch down, or try to hide.
- Remain facing the lion and slowly back away. Leave the animal an escape route.
- Try to appear as large as possible—stand on a rock or stump, hold up your arms, stand next to others.
- Shout, wave your arms, and throw objects if the lion does not leave the area.
- Fight back if a mountain lion attacks. Stay on your feet and use sticks, rocks, backpack, hands to fight back. Use bear spray if you have it.
- Never approach a mountain lion or offer it food.





Photo by Brett Terry

Legal Status

The mountain lion is classified as a big game species in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages lions with hunting seasons throughout the state. A hunting license and tag is required to harvest them. However, mountain lions that are posing an immediate threat to a person or property may be killed in self-defense without a license or tag. A mountain lion taken in this manner remains the property of the state and must be turned over to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Assistance

If you observe a mountain lion or lion sign in your neighborhood or around your home contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. If you experience livestock losses contact your nearest Idaho Department of Fish and Game office and Wildlife Services for assistance.



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

For more information please visit: idfg.idaho.gov

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